



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Surface Water Quality Bureau
Harold Runnels Building – N2050
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110
Telephone (505) 827-0187
Fax (505) 827-0160



RON CURRY
SECRETARY
Derrith Watchman-Moore
DEPUTY SECRETARY

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Nina Wells, NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau
Phone: (505) 827-0572
Contact: Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director
Phone: (505) 827-0314

**The New Mexico Environment Department to Offer Free Water Testing
In Placitas, New Mexico**

(Santa Fe) – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau and the Ground Water Quality Bureau will offer free domestic well water testing for the Placitas/Bernalillo area. This free testing for pH, nitrate, conductivity, sulfate, iron and fluoride parameters will take place:

Saturday, March 20, 2004, 9:00am – 2:00pm at the Placitas Community Center, 41 Camino de las Huertas, off Hwy 165 past the Post Office. Phone # (505) 867-1396 (for location information only).

In order to be tested, samples must be at least one quart in volume, freshly drawn from a cold water tap, and brought in covered, clean glass or plastic container that did not previously contain pickles or juice.

In addition to the water testing, a representative from NMED will discuss septic systems and a representative from Murray Drilling Company will talk about well care and maintenance during a well and septic tank workshop. The times for this event will be from 9:00am – 12:00 noon. For more information on the workshop, log onto the Las Placitas Association website at:
<http://www.lasplacitas.org>.

For further information contact Nina Wells, Surface Water Quality Bureau, NMED at (505) 827-0572 or Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director at (505) 827-0314.

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